



JFCOM Working Group

Initial Meeting Minutes – October 5, 2010

I. Attendees

Lisa Marie Cheney, Delegate John Cosgrove, Congressman Glenn Nye, , Assistant to the Governor Terrie Suit, Mark Brunner, Lee Pontes, RADM (Ret) Craig Quigley, John Sokolowski, Skip Zobel, Gordon Peterson, Curtis Byrd, Dana Dickens, Damon Loveless, John Panneton, Patrick Roberts, Brandon de Graaf, VADM (Ret) Jim Metzger, & Dr. Roger Whiteway

By Phone: LTG (Ret) Joe Inge, LTG (Ret) Bob Wood, Deputy Assistant to the Governor Jim Hopper, former Congressman Tom Davis, Virginia State Senator Jeffrey McWaters, Dave Dickson, Mayor Will Sessoms, Chris Good, Mike Hardy, Gen (Ret) Bob Magnus, John Simmons

Special Guest: Ginger Wierzbowski, Legislative Assistant to General Cartwright – Vice Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff.

II. Meeting Called to Order at 1:05pm, Welcoming Remarks & Introductions

Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness Terrie Suit requested each attendee to introduce themselves. Assistant Suit mentioned the request she made to Deputy Secretary Lynn for participation at the meeting by flag level members of the DoD JFCOM task force. She advised that she had had no response from DoD to this request. Assistant Suit then offered welcoming remarks.

III. Discussion of State Activities

**Assistant Suit began this portion of the meeting with an update regarding current posture and brought up the Governor's breakfast meeting with the DoD and the CODEL.*

Congressman Glenn Nye- Spoke briefly about the breakfast, because he was in attendance. He thanked the Governor for his efforts and mentioned that next up will be a meeting between Sec. Gates and the Governor. He found it significant that the DoD official's analysis of the JFCOM situation has yet to be done and we have established that, going forward, this must happen. He also found it interesting that General Cartwright said the following day that the status quo is an option. Both the chairman and ranking member (HASC) strongly expressed their concerns that

jointness must continue to be carried out. Finally he said that other representatives from around the country expressed the need for this process to be taken up in the normal 2012 budget cycle.

Former Congressman Tom Davis- Said that the breakfast was a good start and was impressed with the recent 24 hour turn around on the letter to the Governor from Sec. Gates.

Mark Bruner- Felt like the breakfast was a great opportunity to flush out ideas.

Assistant Suit- Spoke about the four requests made by the Governor at the conclusion of the breakfast meeting: First, was a request for a personal meeting with Sec. Gates, which our liaison office is working to get done however nothing has been scheduled as of yet. Second, was a request for a channel to be opened up with the DoD and others involved in the JFCOM taskforce. Assistant Suit has now been contacted by DoD legislative affairs staff member Loren Dealy who represented that she would be the requested direct channel. Assistant Suit believes, and has communicated to Ms. Dealy and the Deputy Secretary, that the channel needs to be at flag officer level. Ms. Suit has reiterated the Governor's request to DoD that the gag order on those working on the JFCOM plan be lifted, the non-disclosure agreement signed by JFCOM employees be amended, and members of the task force be authorized to communicate with the Governor's Commission Members. Third, was a request by the Governor that this whole process be delayed until the new Congress was seated, noting that this process has not made much sense and congress and the community had not been able to weigh in on the decision. The Sec. said it's a military decision and not a business decision. The Governor asks what the rush is if this is not a financial decision. The Secretary refused this request in his October 1st letter to the Governor. Fourth, was a request for public hearings, which the Secretary also turned down stating that his staff has already appeared at the congressional hearings.

IV. Senate & House Hearings Update from Mark Bruner & Gordon Peterson

Gordon Peterson- He referred mostly to his hand-out which all in attendance received. Spoke about Sen. Webb voicing his concerns very passionately regarding DoD stonewalling us. Sen. Levin echoed his concerns. Sen. Lieberman questioned the process as well. Senators Webb and Warner filed an amendment that morning that would require the SecDef to submit a very detailed report to congress regarding the disestablishment of JFCOM. The Governor's statement was entered into the record. Data and analysis is necessary to complete our own input. Chairman Levin asked for this information and analysis.

Mark Bruner- began by thanking Ginger for driving all the way down for the meeting. He mentioned that we're still waiting for the original "bucket" of information that went into the August 9th decision. Sen. Warner felt that with 30 meetings taking place in the Pentagon, there should be some type of information put together regarding this subject. "Bucket two" would be the financial analysis behind this decision. We view what's happening now as the initial work and analysis, not as the decision already made and a plan being developed to implement. Sen. Warner wants to know how it is that we're supposed to provide input when we don't have any initial course of action to provide input on. We have created a database with all the missions and functions of JFCOM and would like to engage the task force and don't want that information going to waste. DoD has not reached out to the local communities and we'd like to know what

the engagement process is going to be. The NATO component is something to keep at the top of their importance.

John Simmons (by phone)- Said that the defense hearings last week were very big and he gives the CODEL a lot of credit for getting that done.

Congressman Glenn Nye- Commenting on the hearings he said he feels like we're relatively early in the process and we want to understand going forward how we will be heard. He wants to ensure that as much of the decision as possible will be made during the regular 2012 budget process and also questions why the decision was separated out anyway?

Gordon Peterson- Questioned Ginger about the possibility of this being an objective review that will look at all options. He then mentioned that General Counsel said "the plan" is to get rid of JFCOM.

Ginger Wierzbanski- Said that General Cartwright meant what he said and that everything is still on the table including the possibility of growing JFCOM.

LTG Bob Wood (by Phone)- Commented that it would still take a single leader to make sure that jointness continues. Splitting everything up makes no sense and everyone at the hearing agreed.

**Assistant Suit paused to give agenda time to Ginger Wierzbanski.*

Ginger Wierzbanski- She passed along the fact that one of the Secretary's main goals is to make sure that transparency and communications will be better going forward. She couldn't speak to how this will happen, but said he and his staff want to be accessible to us.

VADM Jim Metzger- Asked Ginger what the time table is for the recommendations and course of action.

Ginger Wierzbanski- Said there are a series of timelines, but did not have them at hand in order to convey them.

RADM Craig Quigley – Said that ultimately the Sec. will decide on the course of action, then will implement the plan.

Mark Bruner- Asked if the implementing and the course of actions are being done separately. What date are we going to be given the opportunity to engage?

Ginger Wierzbanski- Commented that the December deadline is one of the dates and that she will ask what the exact dates are.

Congressman Glenn Nye- Said to Ginger that the Sec. has said definitive statements both ways and we need to speak directly to him and not with his staff who are trying to answer questions for him. We need to flush out exactly what the Sec. means.

LTG Joe Inge (by phone)- commented that the word analysis was not in the letter to the Governor one time. It just seems to be talking about implementing the plan.

Lisa Marie Cheney- Talked about the OSD decision and their recommendations to Gates. She thinks that the Sec. has already made his decision and is only asking to have our input on implementing his plan.

Ginger Wierzbanski- Said that Gen. Cartwright sees it as a recommendation.

LTG Joe Inge- Said it was useful to remember that the letter from Sec. Gates was written after the meetings.

Gen. Bob Magnus (by phone)- Commented that they need to be careful because the Sec. has the power to disestablish a command without doing BRAC. He's not legally obligated to show any analysis, but Congress can try to ask for it.

Gordon Peterson- Said that Deputy Secretary Lynn has agreed to pass along any information that relates to the decision. To whom and when should the delegation provide analysis? He wants to know what the optimum time for the delegations ideas to be received is.

Assistant Suit- Brought up the fact that we have folks who have valuable experience that can help in making analysis. We're hoping to get a dialogue and be at the table going forward. JFCOM recommendation was only for the President, so there may not be a predetermined conclusion. The President has the ability to disestablish.

Congressman Glenn Nye- Concluded this section by saying that we don't want to get into a battle of power, but work together and do a full analysis with us being involved in the decision making.

V. Discussion of Local Activities

**Assistant Suit asked for Patrick Roberts to begin this portion by reporting about Suffolk.*

Patrick Roberts- The City of Suffolk has become accustomed to the BRAC process. They are trying to turn up the gas on their economic efforts to attract new companies. He brought the mayor and the local leadership to the hearings last week. Regionally they are trying to work closely with HRMFFA. They are also trying to show that they are a very military friendly community and want to convey that to the DoD.

Mark Bruner- Stated that what Patrick was saying is very important because the cost analysis is crucial because the private sector has invested millions of dollars into modeling and simulation and this has helped DoD very much, so the Pentagon needs to quantify what it would cost to have the same capability at the same level somewhere else.

Patrick Roberts- Said the general sense of the private sector is one of being stressed out. They have been working with the chamber of commerce and others and many of them are saying that they are still underwater in their relationship with the DoD as it is.

Assistant Suit- Stated that if there's not a huge financial incentive for DoD to do this, then what's the rush, especially when it affects so many people here in Virginia financially?

John Sokolowski- Spoke about modeling and simulation saying it has grown significantly in the Hampton Roads area. This is both a local issue and a national security issue. You can't replace the expertise in this region and it doesn't exist any place else. From a cost stand point, it makes sense to keep it in Hampton Roads. Moving would be an unnecessary cost.

VADM Jim Metzger- Echoed John's statements and spoke about training and asked if anyone has seen the OSD memo. He said he'd send a copy to Assistant Suit.

RADM Craig Quigley- Spoke about HRMFFA saying that he was in DC last week for both the Senate and House hearings. He was in Richmond yesterday for a meeting with Assistant Suit, VNDIA, and President of ODU John Broderick and is working on all the pieces to the puzzle. If conversations are happening he's making sure the information is being shared.

Dr. Roger Whiteway - Talked about the Local Workgroup and the business case analysis team and said that they didn't do a business case analysis. They really did a value analysis because they wanted to rank the directorates in JFCOM and put them in some kind of relative value. He puts values in terms of programming numbers. They dug in and used a bunch of guys sitting around the table and didn't use some huge algebra rhythm. They came up with a spreadsheet with the information they found. He was trying to put together a "Red Team" product. What came out at the top was the joint warfare center. Also near the top was the J7 activity, the joint training. They don't have to send folks overseas now they can do it through modeling and simulation. How many valid billets does JFCOM have?

Del. John Cosgrove- Mentioned that they didn't just make arbitrary rankings. Everything was thoroughly vetted.

Sen. Jeff McWaters (by phone)- Mentioned that the local contractors at the highest levels are looking to bail on JFCOM. NATO is important and the evaluation process is set to begin in 4-6 months, so we could go way down on their list if we don't have some answers by then.

John Sokolowski- Said that VMASC has had their contract renewed by JFCOM for the next year.

VADM Jim Metzger- Said that JFCOM does have a hiring freeze on it right now.

Skip Zobel- Said that he has never heard a 4 star go public like Gehman did and that it was a big deal that he did so.

VADM Jim Metzger- Asked for what the next step is?

Assistant Suit- Said that she is sitting down with the Governor and going through emails that the group sends her. She mentioned the weekly calls. Asked for input and advice, what are people saying on the street. Biggest take away is getting the bi-directional “channel” established and the dialogue started.

***VI. Closing comments by Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness
Terrie Suit – Take away’s discussed & Re-cap of meeting***

VII. The initial meeting of the Workgroup adjourned at 2:32 p.m.